

A SUMMARY OF EVENTS IN THE GRAPE STRIKE

- September 8 --- AWOOC declares strike against Delano-area grape growers, asks \$1.40 per hour and 25¢ a box for the workers. Approximately 1000 members, mainly of Filipino extraction, refuse to go to work or stage sit-ins in camps. Packing sheds are picketed.
- September 9 --- Filipino workers in some camps are evicted; in other camps all utilities are shut off. Growers refuse to negotiate.
- September 18 -- Over 1000 members of the National Farm Workers Association attend a strike meeting, vote unanimously to join AWOOC in the strike. The cooperation of different unions and strike groups makes the strike unique.
- September 19 -- FWA director Cesar Chavez meets with AWOOC director Al Green. The two unions pledge to cooperate and to seek the same wage goals of \$1.40 an hour and 25¢ a box. An FWA member is beaten up while distributing leaflets.
- September 20 -- 150 FWA pickets in roving bands begin picketing vineyards in a 400-square mile area extending from McFarland to Tipton. Hundreds of workers leave the fields and join the cause of the unions. It soon becomes evident that the growers plan a campaign of violence and intimidation as they buzz our pickets in their cars and pick-ups, nearly hitting some union members. Many guns and security guards are in evidence. A strike sign is blasted with a shotgun, and grower's son-in-law arrested.
- September 21 -- The California Council of Churches, the Student Non-Violent Co-ordinating Committee, the Congress of Racial Equality, and many other organizations pledge support to the strike and send volunteer personnel. Workers continue to leave the fields. Police begin taking thousands of photographs of pickets.
- September 22 -- Many workers come out of the fields, including Mexican-Americans, Puerto Ricans, Arabs, Negroes and Anglos. A picket is knocked down by a grower's car, others are threatened by growers and foremen wielding guns. Pickets buzzed by growers' cars are discouraged by police when they attempt to file complaints, the unions stress policy of non-violence.
- October 1 ----- Over half the normal work force is estimated to have left the fields. Bona fide labor disputes have been certified by the State Department of Employment at over a dozen ranches. Growers make radio appeals in Bakersfield and begin going as far afield as Los Angeles and San Francisco in search of scab workers. Aid begins to pour in for strikers from all over the state.
- October 7 ----- Pick-up areas in Bakersfield and Tulare are picketed, reducing the scab force to one-third of normal. Growers begin recruiting scabs as far away as El Paso, making false promises regarding wages. Several growers are rumored ready to sign contracts, but are under pressure from big growers and outside financial power groups. An AWOOC organizer is brutally beaten, and is able to file a complaint against his grower assailant only after going to the State Attorney General's Office.
- October 17 ---- Many grapes are rotting in the fields, and table grapes converted to wine. A grower is arrested for strangling a picket, Reverend David Havens of the Migrant Ministry is arrested on a charge of disturbing the peace for reading Jack London's "Definition of a Strikebreaker" to a group of scab workers. Strikers are told by the Kern County Sheriff's Office they will be arrested for shouting to workers in the fields - often their only way of informing them that a strike exists.

SUMMARY OF GRAPE STRIKE (Continued)

- October 19 -- 44 FWA pickets, including nine ministers, are arrested on a charge of ~~un~~lawful assembly and failure to disperse after shouting HUELGA (strike) to workers in a vineyard. They plead not guilty and ask for a jury trial; many remain in jail.
- October 22 -- Two priests persuade 24 scabs to leave vineyard and join strike.
- October 23 -- Increased support pours in from all over the state and the nation as a result of the arrest of the 44 pickets. A rumor that 2,000 students are due to arrive for week-end picketing causes growers to shut down their entire ~~pickering~~ picking operation for two days.
- October 24 -- Hundreds attend an outdoor Mass in behalf of mothers arrested in the group of 44 pickets.
- October 27 -- Police harassment continues as a female ~~pick~~et is arrested on vague charges after following scabs home in an attempt to talk with them. Police continue to stall on accepting complaints from ~~pick~~ets, and aid growers repeatedly by ~~pick~~ parking between pickets and workers. Hundreds of workers continue to leave fields and labor camps.
- October 28 -- Over 100 men leave a field as NBC films scene for Hunkley-Brinkley Report.
- October 29 -- Over 200 men leave fields. ~~A few pickers~~ pickers are left in entire area of strike.
- November 7 -- Cesar Chavez, FWA director, is arrested on a charge of disturbing the peace after flying over vineyards with two priests who speak to workers through a loudspeaker asking them to leave the fields. He pleads not guilty.
- November 8 -- AWOOC and the FWA are granted ~~pick~~ermits to use bullhorns in talking to scabs by the Kern ~~pick~~County Sheriff's Department, in ~~pick~~spite of ~~pick~~the arrest of 44 pickets for shouting HUELGA.
- November 13 -- Four caravans of over 25 cars and trucks bring tons of food to strikers. San Francisco area doctors and medical students set up a free clinic for strikers. Rain assures further losses by the growers, already three weeks behind in the harvest.
- November 13 -- Longshoremen and Teamsters prevent grapes from being loaded on President Wilson at pier 50 in San Francisco. ~~A~~ The giant liner sails without them, and they are left on the dock.

VIVA LA HUELGA

VIVA LA CAUSA

National Farm Workers Assn.

102 Albany

Delano, California